



Medical Research Council

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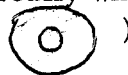
telephone Cambridge (0223) 48011

18th September, 1973

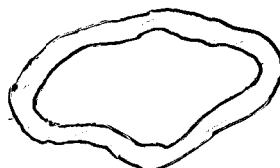
Dr. Paul Berg,
Stanford University Medical Center,
Department of Biochemistry,
STANFORD, California 94305,
U. S. A.

Dear Paul,

Your letter about the SV40 mini-chromosomes has really whetted our appetite. I was rather puzzled by your sketch (which looked like



whereas Roger tells me the pictures look more like



and on the other hand I calculate that they should look rather like



We would really be most grateful if you could send us a few "typical" pictures, with the scale accurately marked, so that we could really see for ourselves. Incidentally, what is the contour length of the DNA alone - 1.2μ ? And where did you measure the contour length of the doughnut? Was it along the middle of the solid part? How accurate is the figure of 0.1?

I found your description of the dissolution process in high salt rather difficult to visualize (e. g. the "ribbon-like" appearance, and the spilled-phage look). Could you possibly send us one or two photos of these?

We feel that even though you cannot yet answer all the questions we asked you already have information which would be of great value to us.

I have just got your letter about Janet Mertz and also a letter from her. I have passed them over to Sydney. I will write again when I've had a chance to discuss the matter with him.

Best wishes,

Yours ever,

F.H.C. Crick

Francis